
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 23

Number 1



2012

1892-O Micro O Half



Normal O Half

Micro O Half

Photos for comparison are sized to the same scale.

See pages 10-12

Photo courtesy of John Frost



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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein
ANA Club Member C-146266

OFFICERS

Philip Carrigan.....*President*
Eileen Ribar.....*Editor, Secretary/Treasurer*
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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ten minutes ago, my home phone rang with Eileen Ribar calling. We don't phone each other often but it is always a pleasure to talk with her. Her purpose was to remind me this message was late by three days! Eileen may keep score on me but being late is rare in my recollection.

The regional coin show focus continues to prove itself a valuable means to highlight the Barber Society and to expand our membership. John Frost has assembled a core group of show representatives who span the country from coast-to-coast. I'm sure there is room for additional persons in this effort. If you are interested and attend regional shows, let John know.

March brings the arrival of Spring (and Daylight Savings to my surprise). Major and regional coin shows flourish with better weather. If you don't ordinarily travel to such a show, consider doing so. Numismatics can be a solitary pursuit. Going to a show doesn't entail focusing on social contacts. Rather, you can see great coins (and not so great coins), meet dealers who you may know only from a *Coin World* ad, and pick up free lists and hobby news.

This is a short message and you know why!

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan

Things To Do

Make certain my 2012 BCCS membership is up-to-date.

Send in one submission for the *Journal* this year.

If one is in my area, stop in at a coin show that has a BCCS table or meeting scheduled and introduce myself.

Return my BCCS Barber Quarter Varieties Census response by May 31, 2012.



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Those of you who have not as yet sent in your 2012 BCCS membership dues will find a reminder included in this *Journal*. Please mail your dues as soon as possible.

There are many coin shows scheduled during the next few months. Perhaps you will consider attending one in your area.

Upcoming BCCS Regional Meetings

- **Mansfield (CT) Coin Club Annual Coin Show**, Willimantic, CT, April 1. No meeting. Club table only, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **PNNA Spring Convention**, Tukwila (Seattle), WA, April 13-15. Meeting time to be announced.
- **Central States**, Schaumburg, IL, April 18-21, Table #211. Meeting date/time to be announced.
- **New Hampshire Expo**, Manchester NH, May 4-6, Club table.
- **Long Beach Expo**, Friday, June 1, 3:00 p.m.
- **Whitman Baltimore Expo**, Friday June 29, 3:00 p.m., Club table.

Please see our website for locations and exact meeting times, as these normally get confirmed closer to the show dates.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS May 25th

Once again I ask that you consider contributing your experiences, thoughts, opinions, ideas, suggestions, questions, etc. to the *Journal*. Matthew Student deliberated several years before actually submitting an article. He has not regretted his decision and we look forward eagerly to each submission he sends in. Matthew recently mused that were Charles E. Barber alive today, he might say "Sure, you like my designs. Now tell me why. Write to me about your experiences. Share your story with the other members. My friend Eileen cannot put together an issue without the contributions from members such as yourselves."

Deadline for your BCCS Barber Quarter Varieties Census response is May 31, 2012.

BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report

Opening balance January 1, 2011 \$9795.73

Receipts:

Dues	2520.00
Advertising	1070.00
Back issues	375.75
Total receipts	3965.75

Total funds available: \$13,761.48

Expenses:

Journal production	2784.00	(Vol. 22 No. 1-4)
1000 Envelopes	184.20	
Postage	1027.54	
Literary prizes	75.00	
Website	81.69	
BCCS banners	1308.39	
FUN dues	15.00	

Total expenses: \$5475.82

Closing balance December 31, 2011 \$8285.66

When A Pupil Has Become A Master (Sort Of!)

By Matthew Student

We potential buyers of third party slabbed coins have been led to trust a handful of respected companies: ANACS, PCGS and NCG. So when not one, but TWO dealers at this past July's New Hampshire Coin Expo silently examined my 1895-O Dime and told me that it had, in each one's opinion, been "cleaned," my stomach became tied up in knots.

Ah, my baby. She was my sole contribution to our BCCS exhibit at the Expo. The one that made my brother-in-law, Kevin, say "WOW!" The one that I must bring to my local coin shop every time that I go there so that Marty can have yet another chance to look at it. The one which was a once in a lifetime opportunity to buy. Cleaned? OH NO!

At first I feared that I would be told that it was a counterfeit. No. Then I learned that ever since a major grading service and a major auction house had entered into a partnership, the chance existed that pressure was used to let a "cleaned" coin be slabbed without comment. Trust - dashed!

Now I had known that this dime had passed through Heritage back in 2004. Yesterday I researched some more. This dime once was part of the Barry Donnell Collection. When a coin is attributed to a "Collection" it has a certain cache. So I felt better.

Then I took another look at the dime itself; this time in bright daylight. And, much to my surprise and delight, I saw a familiar sight: what dealer #Two called a "cleaned" area, a "square," was one of two areas on the reverse of a Barber Dime which are often subject to a certain wear pattern which I have seen many, MANY times before. I clearly saw BOTH areas.

My fear: the realization that my opinion is correct and that the opinion of not one, but two dealers is wrong. You know what? I can live with that. Maybe my opinion counts for something. After all, Barber Dimes are my passion.

My relief: the dime is good. Of that I have no doubt. I wish that all my fellow collectors learn to trust their own judgment and experience. WE are the experts, after all, about Barber coins.

Coin Show Security

By Timothy O'Keefe

I have been an avid coin collector since 1967, and an active police officer since 1982. For the past several years, I have had the privilege of working security at the annual Tulsa Coin Show. Over the past several months, there has been an increasing national trend of thefts at coin shows, taking many forms. This is an issue that needs to be addressed.

First and foremost, be alert. As a dealer, you most certainly want to hold on to your own coins. "Open to the public" means just that. Coin shows attract a vast variety of people. We are not to the point of running checkpoints at the door, but it may eventually come to that.

A dealer's table is extremely vulnerable, particularly if there is a rush of folks to see what baubles are being displayed. One of the tenets of police work is to watch people's hands. Coins can disappear in a moment's notice. Keep your glass cases locked as often as possible.

Most shows have some sort of security on site, which can range from an unarmed plainclothes security guard to uniformed armed police. In an ideal situation, these people should be walking the floor during the show rather than inhaling coffee in a corner away from the public. As a dealer, you should seek out the security people. Engage them in conversation, tell them your concerns, and invite them to check out your table. Building a rapport is important, especially if you need a rest room break and would like security to sit at or watch your table for the few minutes you will be away.

Video surveillance is a good thing to have, but is not always available at coin show venues. Security should be providing escorts back and forth to dealers' vehicles. In addition, they should be patrolling the parking lots at regular intervals to ward off possible vehicle break-ins.

There have been several reports from around the country of dealers being followed from coin shows. At the next gas stop or dinner break, the dealer will park and leave his vehicle, only to return and find it burglarized and stripped of its contents. Keep your vehicle in sight when taking breaks on the road. Be cognizant of traffic around you. If you suspect someone is following you, take a lap or two around the parking lot and check your rear-view mirror. And remember, we live in the electronic age. Thieves are known to attach GPS devices to cars. Check your

wheel wells and bumpers. If you find something suspicious, contact the local law enforcement agency.

None of these measures are extraordinary or unreasonable, and most take advantage of existing resources. The coin show experience should be enjoyable and profitable only for the folks who are there to further the goals of the hobby. Take a few minutes to employ the tactics listed here to protect yourself and your inventory.

People buying coins should also be careful and alert. I have been to many shows where a buyer will sit down at a table and pull out a wad of bills the size of a boxer's fist. Whether he is trying to impress the seller or just lacks a good-sized wallet, he is attracting undue attention to himself. Coin shows are generally a cash business, and thieves know this. Buyers should limit the amount of cash they flash. Being discreet and conservative can save a buyer being a victim down the road.

When purchasing coins at a show, I always get offered a bag or soft container by at least one dealer. My advice is take one, if not more. I tend to put all of my purchases in one sack. That way, if someone were to try and get into my pocket, it is usually heavy and bulky enough to alert me that someone is trying to take it. A bag or zip lock pouch is more difficult to remove from a pocket.

As a police officer preaching on safety, I always advise people to use common sense: park in well-lighted areas, take time to stop and survey the local geography (parking lots, stairwells, alleys, etc.), and try to travel in pairs when going back and forth to your vehicle. Have your keys and cell phone at hand. Carrying pepper spray is always a plus. It is not illegal to carry and oleocapsicum spray is defined as food (though I would not recommend applying it to your local burrito).

All of these suggestions can help make attending a coin show more assuring, safe, and enjoyable.

National Coin Week, April 15-21

This year's theme - "Change in Money: Cowries to Credit Cards"

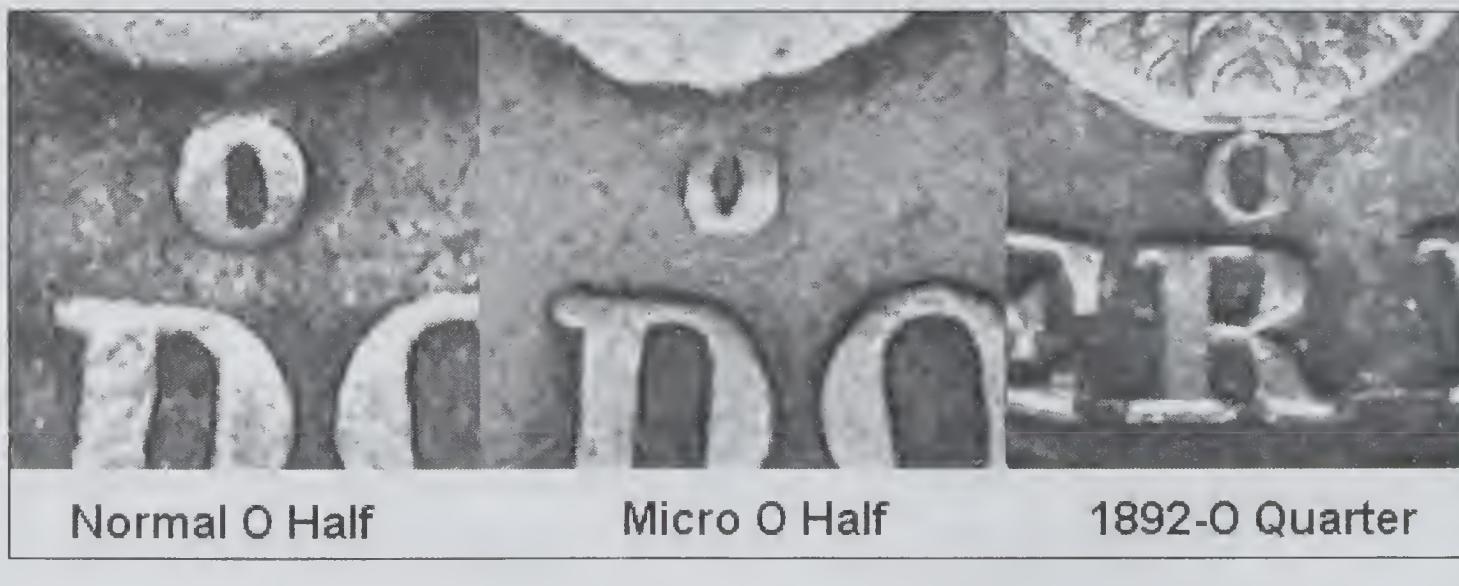
Club Trivia Challenge: The club that wins the 20-question challenge will receive a 2012 \$10 American Eagle quarter ounce gold proof coin. If interested in participating in the challenge, contact Eileen. If BCCS wins, we will have a drawing among those members who contributed answers.

1892-O Micro O Half – Fact or Fiction?

By John Frost, BCCS #892

Many Barber collectors are familiar with the rare 1892-O Micro O Half. Discovered soon after its creation, it has always been assumed that it was struck from a reverse die, mistakenly given the mintmark from a punch intended for the Quarter dies. With only a few dozen known, it is believed that the error was discovered early and the die was pulled from use (versus allowing it to be used for a full die run).

At the Manchester, NH Coin Expo last summer, I exhibited my Micro O at the BCCS table, and many people got to see it. A couple of collectors, however, posed a question (more accurately a doubt) that intrigued me. They referred to the case of 3 Morgan Dollar VAMs with Small O mintmarks. After being known for years, they were discovered to be contemporary counterfeits. And these two collectors wondered if the Micro O Half might in fact be a counterfeit as well. Their key piece of evidence that caused their doubt was the fact that the 1892-O Quarter has a symmetrical O, whereas the Micro O mintmark is thicker on the right side, even though it is the same size as the quarter. This is evident on both low- and high-grade coins. All photos for comparison are sized to the same scale.



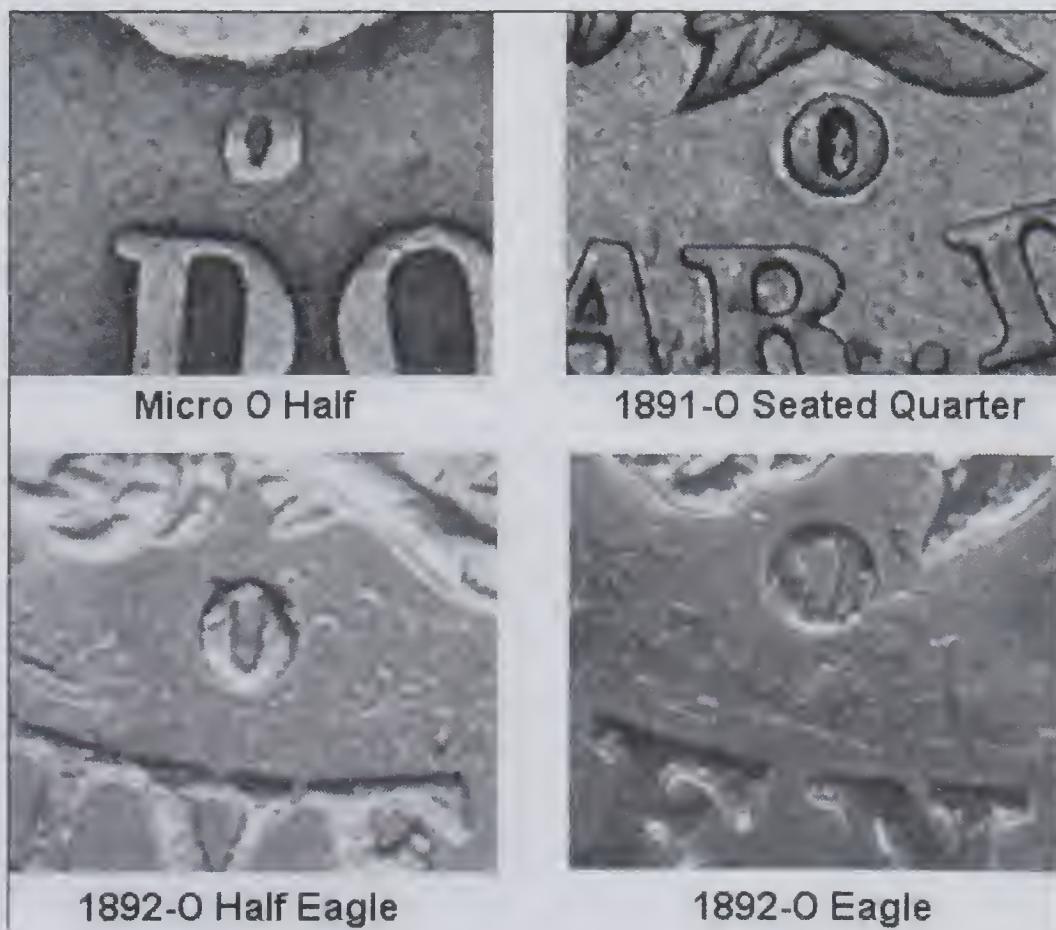
There are some key differences between this situation and that of the Morgans. The Dollar fakes are mostly known in low grades, as these were contemporary counterfeits that circulated heavily, and no gems are known. The Micro O Half, on the other hand, is known by a number of spectacular coins, including several gems with the MS68 Eliasberg-Dale Friend coin leading the pack. As I have seen some of these, including Dale's coin, I know that there is no way counterfeiting technology 100 years ago could produce a fake that exact. I knew this

variety is the real thing, but how to explain the asymmetrical mintmark? I decided to do a little research.

I decided that I needed to try to find another coin with a mintmark made from the same punch, or at least another coin that had a similar-looking mintmark shape, and not just the size. I looked at many 1892-O Quarters, and they all had nice symmetrical mintmarks, so I had to look elsewhere.

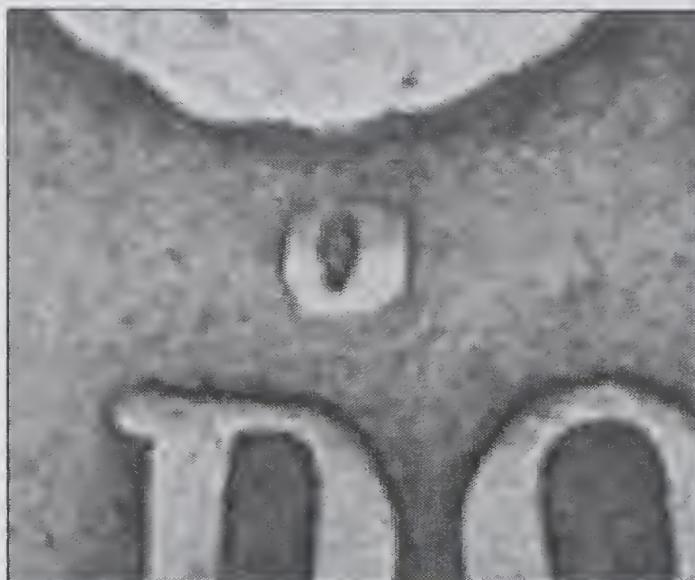
Given I struck out with the 1892-O coins, I decided to look at the 1891-O Quarter, hoping the Micro-O was made from the previous year's punch. But I struck out. The Barber Quarter mintmark is significantly smaller than that used on Liberty Seated Quarters. And I also knew the Barber Quarter used a punch smaller than the Dime, so that wasn't the answer either. And the Dollar was a dead-end too, as even the genuine "Small O" VAMs (of dates other than the counterfeits) have mintmarks larger than the Barber Quarter. So if I was going to find the answer in another denomination, that left Gold.

Here the going didn't get better. The Gold Dollar was last minted in New Orleans way back in 1855, and it was a nice big mintmark. Same deal with the Quarter Eagle, last with an O in 1856, and the Three-Dollar in 1854. Double Eagles were made last in 1879, with a large mintmark, so that left Fives and Tens, both made during the early 1890s. However, comparing those, both of those coins used larger mintmarks. These mintmarks had several different styles (round vs. oval), but all were larger than the Barber Quarter.

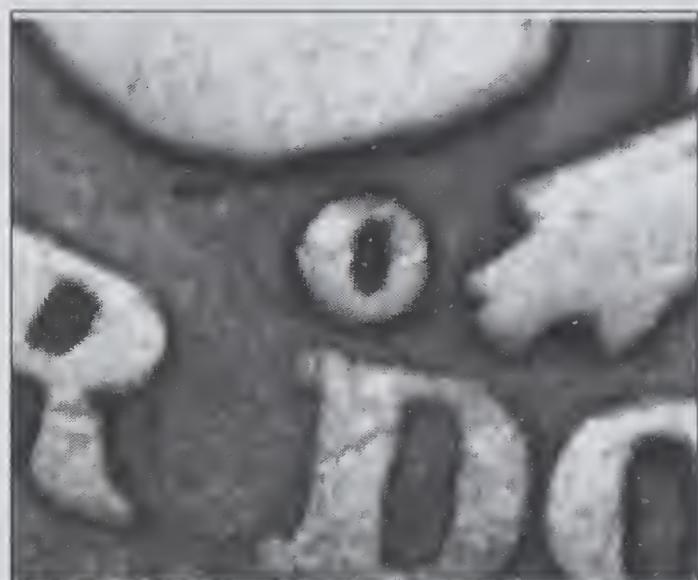


So, even though I knew the Micro O Half was a genuine variety, I was still unable to find another example of the asymmetrical mintmark. And I had proven conclusively that no other mintmark punch for any other denomination than the Barber Quarter could have been used to create that sized mintmark. Now where to look?

Since I had already checked 1891-O as well as 1892-O Quarters, why not check 1893-O as well? Perhaps the Micro O was made late in 1892. So I dug into my holdings, and the first 1893-O Quarter I checked had an asymmetrical mintmark!



Micro O Half



1893-O Barber Quarter

I have since checked about 15-20 different 1893-O coins, and 2 of them had asymmetrical mintmarks (although the thicker part is on the left rather than the right, as shown in the photo), and all of the rest had the normal mintmark. Granted, the shape is not identical to the Micro O's mintmark, but it is close, and whether the unbalanced appearance is due to uneven punching, die deterioration, etc., this proves that the Barber Quarter mintmark punch could indeed create the observed appearance found on the Micro O Half. And thus, I had successfully shown what I set out to do with this study.

Even though there was never any doubt in my mind about the authenticity of the variety (for all the reasons noted at the beginning of this article), I finally found some evidence.

So, to answer to the question, “1892-O Micro O Half, fact or fiction?” ... I think we can confidently say Fact!

Renewed Interest in Barber Quarters Primarily O-Mint Coins

By Michael T Williams

Late January of 2011 found me attempting to downsize my personal possessions - clothing, books, furniture, duplicates and triplicates of "whatever." I'll admit to having a hoarding tendency! Within the realm of numismatics, since my first coin show in 1972, I had accumulated hundreds of books, auction catalogs, magazines & specialty club journals. What to do with all this stuff?

I have long been interested in the Capped Bust Half Dollars, (especially the 1807 & 1808 coins) and the Reduced Size Capped Bust Quarters (1831-1838). Choosing to retain literature pertaining to these series was a no-brainer.

As I filtered through the aforementioned publications, my eyes fell upon the second edition of David Lawrence's *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*." This book had been closed for so many years that when opened, it effused that unmistakable "new book" aroma. This excited me! On the inside of the front cover, I noted my signature with the date, 12-12-94. At the top of the facing page, I found my notation in black ink from early 1995:

FINE SET OF O-MINT - \$450-700 18 coins
7 are R-4! In Fine
7 are R-3
3 are R-2

(I had made this notation while traveling as an automobile passenger to a coin show in Salem, OR, about an hour north of my hometown of Eugene, OR.)

On the title page is the following:

"To Michael Williams
with best wishes

Dave 57/250"

My plan back in early 1995 had been to start collecting New Orleans Mint quarters, a series until then I had little knowledge nor interest in - even though I was a BCCS member and my library included a copy of Dave Lawrence's 1st edi-

tion book on quarters.

In January of 2011 my question was, sell the book or keep the book? If I kept the book, I knew I had to use it, otherwise it would be taking up space. I came really close to selling - several times. I thought there would be a good market, and the cash seemed more appropriate than another retained item not being used.

I'm happy to state that I hung on to the book! I began to use it. Soon, I was becoming familiar with the Barber Quarters, particularly the O-Mint coins. My notes from early 1995 became my current goal: New Orleans Barber Quarters in Fine-12, or better. A side-goal (which is sometimes way too easy for me!) was to acquire scarce dates from the other three mints, excluding the three notorious S-Mint coins (1896, 1901, 1913).

With a new-found and totally reachable collecting goal (no stoppers), I took off like a rocket! The tougher the date, the higher my interest! I eagerly sought the 1909-O & 1901-O coins. I began attending local coin shows again. I re-connected with a coin collecting friend of the 1990's. I found myself in coin shops from time to time. Hey! I was back into coin collecting!

I re-joined the BCCS and soon received a bundle of 40 back issues of the BCCS *Journal*. I've had a great time reading & re-reading these interesting, informative & stimulating articles. Doug Veal's article, "Barber Quarter Availability Observations: Past and Present" (BCCS Journal Volume 22 #1) I found especially interesting & thought provoking.

In the past 12 months I have gone from nearly parting with a classic book to employing this book and my renewed BCCS membership to currently be stewarding 91 new to me Barber Quarters, 58 of which were born in New Orleans!



Dave Lawrence Barber Books now On-line at DLRC Website

All three David Lawrence Barber coin books - *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*, *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, and *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*, as well as *The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage* by David Lawrence & John Feigenbaum - are available at the DLRC on-line library website: <http://www.stellacoinnews.com/>. Simply click on "Reference Books" and scroll down to the book title you want. Access is free, no membership required.

Barber Bits

Letters/Emails to the Editor:

...Would you happen to know when (what year) the 1892-O Half Micro O Half Dollar variety was discovered? I used to be in touch with the fellow who kept the population info but lost his name and e-mail when my system crashed a few years back. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated!

*Regards as always,
Max*

Can you help Max? Send your reply to Eileen.



Here are the final two 2009 End-of Year Member Survey responses to the question “*What are your three favorite Barbers?*”

Stephen Schumm: I’m really happy with the exquisite design of the Barbers. That premise makes it extremely difficult to select only three, but here goes. I searched for a long time before I purchased my 1901-S G-5 certified Barber Quarter. It has nice design etc., and I’m sure happy I purchased it when I did, otherwise it would have been out of my price range.

I also like my full-rimmed 1913-S quarters. They have excellent eye appeal.

I have a beautiful AU-58 1892-S Barber Half - again excellent eye appeal. I own all the Barbers except the 1892 micro O Half Dollar and the 1894-S Dime, and continue to enjoy upgrading my collection.



Joseph Cabral: 1896-S Half in F-15 (strong LIBERTY on headband): I obtained the same from Dave Bowers more than 15 years ago. I had wanted a VF-20. Dave told me that I was making a mistake in passing up this piece. He was right. I have not seen a nicer one since then. Many (most) are heavily cleaned and/or damaged

- this one is not. I would form a set of these if I could obtain ones that are as good as this one. Old envelope toning and nice for the grade!

1897-S Quarter in F-12: Again, I wanted a better one. This one cost me \$140 about five years ago. I got this one from Lee Crane. He sold me this as good as they come - probably lightly cleaned long ago (soap and water). Have not seen another one even though I have been looking [forever]! Many of the higher grades were carefully cleaned by well-meaning souls long ago.

1909-O Quarter in VF-35: I sold this coin in haste one time and was able to buy it back from the same person at no extra charge, but I had to trade coins that I wanted to keep with him. I got the coin from Norman Pullen, a well-known PNG dealer in Portland, Maine years ago. He told me that if I passed on it, I would be sorry for a long, long time. Since I was used to being "reamed, steamed, and dry-cleaned" by dealers, I didn't care. He dropped his price by \$10 and I bought the guy for \$75. Now I would not part with it for \$300 US. Glad to have it and have not seen another nicer (old Wayte Raymond National Album toning).

1896-S Dime in G-5 (full rims): The real deal and nice as such. Common to scarce in AG-3, harder in G-4, and impossible to find in G-5 (full rims). Got-ten from my old buddy Jack H. Beymer... Bought this because no higher were on hand. I never fail to get offers for it. I paid the better part of a C note for it, but would not sell it any time soon!

1895-O Dime in G-5: Sold to me by David Bowers for a slight discount. ...they have never sold me a bad coin. Solid piece and rare as such. Almost never seen in nice shape. You get an AU-50 or a mutilated AG-3. I was fortunate to buy this at \$180 and I could easily get around \$300 for it right now. All Dave's coins are expensive!

1908-S Quarter in F-15: I got this guy from an old friend (dealer) in Iowa - the name was Curtis Iversen (now dead). He tried to sell me a G-4 1901-S for \$495 when I was in college, but I did not buy it (big mistake). I bought the '08-S in F-15 for \$15 many years ago - Curtis is long gone now! I could easily get \$85 or \$90 for it right now. I will keep this one for awhile.



The response to the end-of -year question "Do you like the idea of a Barber presence at regional coin shows?" was a unanimous YES!

2011 Literary Contest Results

1st Place - \$50 - "Reflections on Completing a Barber Set" by Dave Lange

2nd Place - \$25 - "Barber Quarter Availability Observations: Past and Present" by Doug Veal

3rd Place - 1 year FREE BCCS membership - "My Journey Through the Land of Barber" by John Lundsten

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all members who submitted articles. Only one vote decided second and third place. And every article entered received votes which means it was appreciated and enjoyed by your fellow BCCS members.

Our 2012 contest opens with this issue. To be entered, simply submit an article for publication in the *Journal*.



Did you know you can send a quick quip or Barber Bits item for the *Journal* simply by entering a few words on the BCCS website? It's fast and easy! See "Submit article" under "The Journal."

Do you have a particularly attractive Barber? You can post its picture on the website's "Gallery" page. Please send image files to bccs@barbercoins.org.

BCCS Advertisement Rates

1/8 page	1 issue.....\$12	4 issues.....\$40
1/4 page	1 issue.....\$20	4 issues.....\$70
1/2 page	1 issue.....\$30	4 issues.....\$100
1 page	1 issue.....\$70	4 issues.....\$250

1 page inside front - rear cover	1 issue..\$80	4 issues.....\$300
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue...\$125	4 issues.....\$400

Die Chips on the 1896-S Dime

By Matthew Student

One of the thrills of collecting Barber coins is that they always hold surprises. Join me on a recent journey of discovery.

Early in 2011 I purchased an 1896-S Dime. Nothing special. Just a VF-20 example. But that nagging hole in my album was at last filled. From time to time I would enjoy looking at it. I was quite happy and satisfied.

About six months later as I was studying *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*, I saw the following note: “One die has chips on the corn ear and leaves below.” David Lawrence

Well, I took yet another look at the dime and found something strange: “stuff” where there should not have been “stuff.” I just had to do some research.



DL 1896-S “The Normal Die”
Reprinted with permission of DLRC



My dime with clogged kernels, clogged leaves, ‘Boxing Glove’ blob

What I learned was the following: There are three areas of interest about the dime: the right hand side of the ear [the kernels] of corn [subject to filling?],

the area [filled!] between the two shucks of the ear of corn [which usually forms a clear 'V' pattern], and on the oak leaf directly below the left shuck of the ear of corn. The latter is a three dimensional "blob" which looks like a left-handed boxing glove.

Of course, I needed another example to prove my findings. I found it thanks to Ryan, a kind eBay seller. Although his example (seen in the photo to the right) shows nothing strange about the kernels, it does show AN IDENTICAL three-dimensional "boxing glove blob" as well as the "filled" area between the two corn shucks. That convinced me that these two dimes were most likely examples of the die variety mentioned by "Uncle Dave."

So the lesson, I guess, is this: If you see something "strange" on your Barber coins, do not hesitate to do some study. You just may find something worth writing about. And we will be happy to read about YOUR journey of discovery!



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BCCS Regional Update

By John Frost, BCCS Regional Program Chair

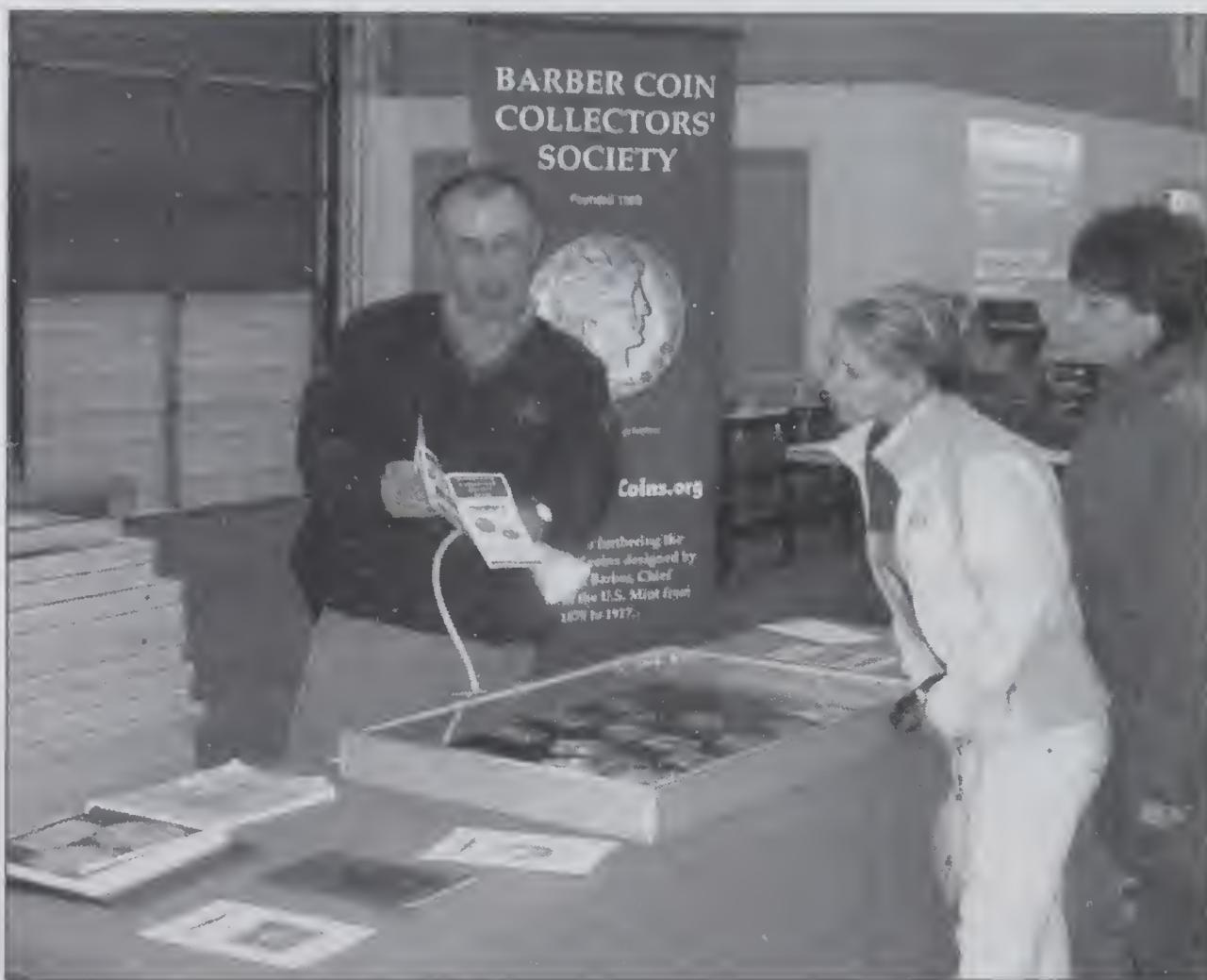
Our Regional Program has been very active recently with a number of excellent shows, and it only gets busier from here. We kicked off 2012 with our annual FUN meeting in Orlando in January. Many BCCS members attended the 5-day event, but many obviously could not stay the entire time. There was good traffic at the BCCS club table on the bourse floor, especially the first 2 days, before dropping off a bit. Our meeting was well attended, as we launched the Barber Quarters Varieties Survey, as well as an educational program on the 1892-O Micro O half. We welcomed 6 new BCCS members at the FUN show. Plus some great show and tell!

West Coast Regional Director **Glenn Holsonbake** hosted BCCS at the Long Beach Show in early February. A small turnout, given that Long Beach has become more of a wholesale show, but those that were present were interested, and Glenn actually ran out of Membership Application/Brochures! Glenn's next BCCS Regional Show is the PNNA show in Tukwila (Seattle) Washington April 13-15. See full schedule elsewhere in the *Journal*.

Also in February, Southeast Regional Director **Walt Kennedy** had a BCCS table at the Charlotte Coin Club's Annual Show. Traffic was very brisk, with an exhibit and discussions about the BCCS. As we have seen, this second-tier show (i.e., not one of the huge shows), and one hosted by a local coin club, had lots of collector traffic, and visitors were able to see the entire bourse floor and still have time to stop at club tables. Like last year's NH Coin Expo, this show completely exceeded all expectations, and the BCCS realized 20 new members from this show alone, including collectors and local dealers that routinely have Barber material. The photo (opposite page) shows Walt at the BCCS table in Charlotte. Representatives from the big state shows in South Carolina and Georgia were in attendance, and invited Walt and the BCCS to their shows. The demand for knowledge and clubs is certainly out there around the country, and I thank the Regional Directors for their huge contribution to the BCCS. Since the beginning of the Regional Program, the BCCS has grown by 20% in the last 7 months. Outstanding!

Next up are a number of key events this Spring. In addition to Glenn hosting at the PNNA show in the Seattle area in April, I will host a BCCS table at the Mansfield, CT Coin Club's annual coin show in Willimantic on April 1st.

Vern Sebby and **Richard Shimkus** will host a Midwest regional meeting at Central States in Schaumburg (Chicago), Illinois, April 18-21. We will also have Table #211 on the bourse floor, so please stop by.



May 4-6 is the New Hampshire Coin Expo, held in the spring this year rather than mid-summer. This is the show that kicked off the Regional Program last year, and we look forward to returning there, again with a Club Table as well as a Meeting. Plus the June Long Beach Expo May 31-June 2, and the Baltimore Expo June 28-July 1.

If you want to help the BCCS, please help us at a Regional Show, especially if we have a table on the bourse floor. There is no better way to meet other Barber enthusiasts and it is great fun -- just ask any of us who have spent time behind a table! And you can help promote the club, and introduce people to Barber coinage. Please send e-mail to BCCS@barbercoins.org.

As always, you can look in the *Journal*, and on the website, for the list of upcoming Regional BCCS meetings. We also email any last-minute updates to the BCCS Blind Email List.

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings!

Barber Coin Collectors' Society

1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber, and minted from 1892 to 1916.
2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, society members and non-members alike.
4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.
5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.
6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.
7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.
8. Offers benefit to all Barber collectors, whether they collect Barber dimes, quarters or halves, graded AG or MS65+.
9. Makes sure its members have a say in the organization.
10. Is a not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the benefit of its members and those who assist the Society in advancing its purpose.

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